

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1938.

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## COUNCIL ATTACKS SHIFTING OF FUNDS FOR PLAYGROUNDS

Winter Athletic Programs Would Be Curtailed, Report Charges.

CHILDREN UNDER FIVE SEEN HURT BY ACTION

Protest Is Made on Eve of Senate Hearings of D. C. Budget Opening Tomorrow.

Action of the House in transferring funds for the summer operation of 47 school playgrounds from the Playground Department to the school budget will prevent an adequate program of activity being staged on many of these grounds according to a report issued by the City-wide Playground Council on the eve of Senate hearings on the District budget tomorrow.

The effect of the transfer also will be to drive thousands of children of pre-school age off the grounds into the streets and to curtail the winter physical education programs in the schools during the school year, the council charged.

Explaining its objection to the item, the council, representing 60 civic welfare and parent-teacher groups, pointed out that the \$25,000 was transferred from playground estimates of \$29,700 intended to cover only maintenance and partial supervision of these grounds. Additional personnel for complete supervision is provided in other funds of the department, it was said.

Equipment Funds Omitted. In addition, the council cited the fact that the item does not include funds for baseball, basket, volleyball, tennis and other activity equipment necessary for a program of activities on these grounds.

"It is therefore clearly impossible for the schools to make the \$25,000 provide in 1939 the same supervision now furnished by the Playground Department," the report declared.

The group also pointed to the statement by the Board of Education that it did not seek the transfer and presumed therefore that the board has no definite plan for the operation of the grounds without reorganization. The experience of the Community Center Department, to which the transfer was made, in operating playgrounds extends only over the last two summers on 20 playgrounds, it was said.

"To suddenly expand its activities to operate 67 grounds, an increase of 235 per cent, is certain to result in some communities receiving considerably lowered quality as well as quantity of recreational activities," the council said.

Pre-School Age Clause. In referring to the children of pre-school age, the report declared that school appropriations are subject to a general clause prohibiting the use of school funds on children under 5 years of age.

"This would prevent programs now staged on school grounds for thousands of children under 5, to the disappointment of parents who have come to depend on this relief and also to the increased danger to such young children by reason of their being forced off the playgrounds into the streets," the council said.

In addition, the report cited the intention expressed by Supt. of Schools Frank W. Ballou to supervise these playgrounds with day-school physical education teachers by requiring these teachers, under new language in the 1939 bill, to take their vacations during the winter so as to be available during the summer months.

"This would obviously necessitate the curtailment of health and physical education programs during the school term," the council charged.

The opinion also was expressed that a school-planned health and physical education routine instead of a play program on the summer playgrounds may affect the desire of the children to visit such grounds.

No Authority to Use Them. According to Julian C. Hammack, president of the group, as a result of this transfer the Playground Department has personnel and supplies available but no authority to use them on grounds at the new locations. The council also charged that the transfer of funds to the new locations would be a "transfer of funds without transfer of personnel."

The council is on record as favoring recreation co-ordination but also opposes any jurisdictional transfer pending a fact-finding report by the District Recreation Committee.

Meanwhile, school officials have forwarded a statement to the Senate committee beginning budget consideration tomorrow, that while they did not seek the transfer, they and the board heartily endorse it in the belief that activities on school playgrounds in the summer should be considered an extension of the health and recreation programs carried on by the school health and physical education departments during the year.

Supt. Ballou told the School Board at its last meeting that the schools are perfectly capable of furnishing the supervision now provided by the Playground Department.

## PROFESSOR TO TALK

RIVERDALE, Md., Feb. 7 (Special).—Prof. A. S. Thurston of the University of Maryland will address a meeting at the Municipal Building Tuesday evening on roadside tree planting. The meeting is sponsored by the East Riverdale Woman's Civic Club. The women are especially interested in planting trees along Jefferson avenue to replace those recently removed to permit widening of the street.

## Col. Rizer, Civil War Veteran, Walks 5 Miles Daily at 94

Former Geological Survey Chief Clerk Will Race Anybody His Age.

Col. H. C. Rizer, youngest man ever appointed to a colonelcy in the Union Army and now entering his ninety-fourth year, was out for a "constitutional"—a five-mile walk through the city streets.

"If you want to interview me, young fellow," the colonel said, tapping impatiently with his cane, "you've got to talk as you walk—and talk fast. I'm in a hurry!"

Since he was a boy, the colonel has enjoyed this exercise above all others—and he intends to keep walking, he indicated, until he drops in his tracks. "I enlisted in the Union Army when I was 17, and I was made a colonel when I was 21," he said. "We did a lot of walking—hiking, some call it—in those days, and I guess I got in the habit. Anyway, I walk downtown to the Cosmos Club every day for lunch, and back to my home—rain or shine."

Averages Five Miles a Day. The colonel lives at 1864 Belmont street N.W., and his walk to and from lunch gives him three miles on the daily allotment. After he arrives home he usually goes out for another jaunt, so that he averages five miles a day, regardless of weather conditions.

The only narrow escape Col. Rizer had in the Civil War was when a shot entered his shoe and lodged itself under his toes. "Didn't even hurt me," he said, "just made walking a little bit uncomfortable. Had that shot been an eighth of an inch higher I might be lame today. Thank God, I've got the use of my feet."

The colonel also has the full use of his ears and his eyes; he hears extremely well and he never wears glasses when he walks.

"Occasionally," he said, "I wear glasses when I read—but not always."

Was Born in 1844. "I was born February 1, 1844, in the administration of John Tyler. Though I didn't see James K. Polk in other funds of the department, it was said."

## INVESTORS PLAN LOAN FIRM FIGHT

Montgomery Surplus Certificate Holders Face Loss of \$320,000.

Aroused by prospects of losing a total of \$320,000 in the Montgomery Building & Loan Association, which has petitioned the court for "dissolution," a group of holders of so-called "fourth surplus certificates" in the Montgomery have planned a meeting this afternoon to confer with counsel as to the best steps to protect their interests.

Headed by Edwin J. Heath of 1841 Sixteenth street, who has started preliminary organization of a committee, the group planned to gather in the law offices of Fred P. Myers, Room 1011, Woodward Building, at 3 p.m.

Mr. Heath announced. Mr. Myers had been sought as counsel because he represented a client who won a case against the Montgomery association and had succeeded in collecting \$150,000 value plus interest on its surplus certificates. Of course, however, have been invited to the session this afternoon, it was learned.

Besieged With Calls. From the time his preliminary announcement was made yesterday in The Star, Mr. Heath said, he has been besieged with telephone calls from other holders of certificates, who want to join him in the movement. All have been invited to the conference this afternoon, which will be open to any who care to attend.

The Montgomery Association has petitioned the court for dissolution and for the right to sell its assets to the Perpetual Building Association for cash. This would enable it to raise a fund sufficient to pay in full all 3,000 shareholders of Class A, B and C certificates, the Montgomery. It would not provide sufficient funds, however, to pay off in full the 1,900 holders of surplus certificates. There is a difference of opinion as to whether the association, under the terms of sale and the stipulations on the face of the certificates, is obliged to pay face value of certificates.

Assets of \$567,355. Records on file at court show the Montgomery has assets of \$567,355.07 with liabilities listed at \$563,063.07, which \$23,291.00 is owed to holders of the class A, B and C shareholders.

Spokesmen for the Montgomery insist that the whole problem is in the hands of the court and that Receiver Joseph R. Little, who was president of Montgomery, would distribute the funds made available, in whatever manner the court orders. Some officials feel, however, that the Montgomery does not owe anything to the surplus certificate holders, because there is no surplus.

None of the certificates were issued during the administration of President Little.

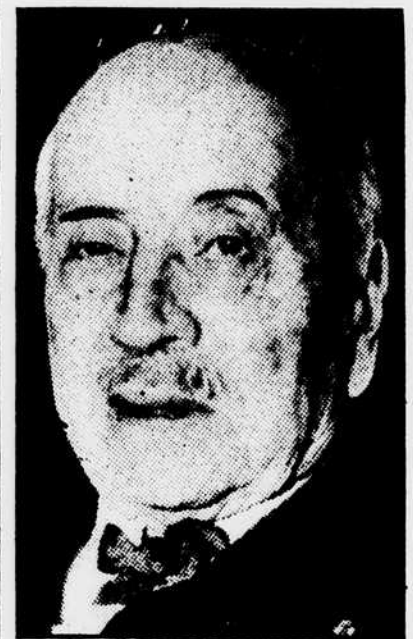
Mr. Heath explained he had no fault to find with the offer of the Perpetual Building Association to buy the assets of the Montgomery Association for cash. This move, he thought, was a good one. But his concern is the manner of distribution of the cash after it is received by the Montgomery receiver.

A meeting of the National Capital Group of Controllers will be held tomorrow night at 8:45 at the La Fayette Hotel. Fred L. Pierce, tax consultant, will give a talk on income taxes.

## Students Admit After-School Jobs Will Help Them When They Graduate

HIGH school students here who admit that they will not get up early and work in bad weather, but most of them admit their after-school employment will do them some good after graduation.

"I meet many Congressmen and Senators who in time will help me get a job in the Government," wrote one lad in response to an employment questionnaire submitted to more than 3,000 students



COL. H. C. RIZER.

and Zachary Taylor. I've seen all the rest of our Presidents—and if you count 'em off, the names run as follows: Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, U. S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, William H. Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. . . . That's 20 of 'em!"

While there are many older men in the city, few are more active. If properly challenged, the colonel will walk anybody his age, shoot billiards with younger men, and smoke as many cigars as any of them.

After the Civil War, Col. Rizer read law and was admitted to the Maryland bar. A native of Cumberland, Md., he came to Washington two years after the war and became a disbarred attorney. He finished that job 52 years ago, in 1896, went to Kansas and started a newspaper, and then came back in time to get in on the reconstruction of Geological Survey, where he remained 35 years as chief clerk—from 1889 to 1925.

## JUDGE NEWMAN HARD ON SPEEDERS

Imposes \$10 to \$25 Fines and Jails Those Unable to Pay.

Speeders appearing at the bar of justice today found Judge Lenency on a vacation.

Judge Hobart Newman, newest of the Police Court jurists, met a steady stream of persons charged with driving their automobiles too fast with a steady assessment of heavy fines which ranged between \$10 and \$25, and in only one case dropped below \$10.

Determined to cut down the large number of auto offenders in Traffic Court, Judge Newman also firmly declined latitude in payment of fines, and ordered those unable to meet their sentences to be locked up.

It has been the practice of other Police Court judges in certain cases to free defendants on their personal bonds until they could get the money to pay their fines at a specified date. Judge Newman also ignored many recommendations of the corporation counsel's office at Police Court regarding fines to be imposed in cases investigated by members of the corporation counsel's office.

Today was the first day of Judge Newman's second month's period of presiding in Traffic Court.

## BREWERY COMPANY FILES IN BANKRUPTCY

Concern Tells Court "It Owes Debts It Is Unable to Pay in Full."

The Washington Brewery, Inc., Twenty-fifth and G streets N.W., was adjudicated a bankrupt in District Court today on its own petition.

The concern told the court "it owes debts which it believes it is unable to pay in full." No schedules of assets and liabilities accompanied the petition, but Justice Jennings Bailey gave the concern permission to file them within 10 days.

The petition, which was signed by James D. Butler, president of the corporation, recited a resolution authorizing the court proceedings, which was passed by the firm's board of directors, February 3.

The concern, which formerly was the Abner Drury Brewery, was represented by the law firm of Tobin, Graham, Bresz & Tobin.

The brewery was placed in the hands of receivers last November on petition of creditors, and no beer has been made since that time, although the receivers sold the stock on hand, Attorney Walter Tobin said.

The corporation's license to manufacture beer expired January 31 and was allowed to lapse.

Controllers to Meet. A meeting of the National Capital Group of Controllers will be held tomorrow night at 8:45 at the La Fayette Hotel. Fred L. Pierce, tax consultant, will give a talk on income taxes.

## THREE FATALITIES INCREASE TRAFFIC DEATH TOLL TO 13

Boy Bicyclist and Two Pedestrians Succumb to Injuries.

CORONER'S JURY PROBE IS SCHEDULED TODAY

"Road-Hogging" Motorist Forces Bus Over Curb, Bruising Two Passengers.

Fatal injury of a boy bicyclist, death of two pedestrians from previous mishaps and injury of several persons were marked up against week-end traffic, bringing the toll of dead so far this year to 13.

Those who died were Kenneth L. Fenton, 14, of 332 Channing street N.E., Leonard Di Giovanni, 50, of 1361 Newton street N.W., and James Palmer, 53, colored, 905 French street N.W.

The Fenton boy, son of Thomas H. Fenton, a District fireman, succumbed on the scene a short time after his bicycle, according to police, was in collision at Brandeis street and Broad Branch road N.W. with an automobile operated by Mrs. Florence Sindell, 46, of 5465 Nebraska avenue N.W.

Father Identifies Body. After lying unclaimed at the morgue for several hours, the body finally was identified by the father, who was notified when police tentatively established the boy's identity through a Sunday school record found in his pocket.

The youngster was a student at Langley Junior High School. Mrs. Sindell was released for appearance at an inquest today.

The two other fatalities also were to be investigated by a coroner's jury today. Mr. Di Giovanni died in Emergency Hospital early yesterday of injuries received Saturday when he was struck by a street car at Fourteenth and Newton streets N.W.

The motorist who struck Palmer at Virginia avenue and South Capitol street S.E., took the injured man to Emergency Hospital, police said, but left without making his identity known. He was described as a white man about 35, who was driving a machine in which two women were passengers.

Serious Passengers Hurt. A serious accident was narrowly avoided last night when a Capital Transit Co. bus, northbound on Connecticut avenue N.W., was forced over the curb and into a lamp post near Brandeis street by a "road-hogging" motorist. Two of the 11 passengers on the bus required treatment for bruises, police said.

The bus driver, Alton B. Johnson, 31, of 4315 Elliott street N.W., said he swerved over the sidewalk to avoid a head-on collision with an automobile going south on the wrong side of the street.

The passengers hurt were Mrs. Jennie O'Boyle, 62, of 3503 Rittenhouse street N.W., and Justin O'Boyle, 36, also of the Rittenhouse address. They were treated by a private physician.

Another bicyclist injured yesterday was William W. Brown, 14, of 1400 U street S.E., who was cut and bruised when his vehicle was in collision with an automobile on Nichols avenue S.E.

Miss Vivian Leech, 25, of 4012 Third street N.W., was treated at Emergency Hospital for her ankle, leg and lip, received in an accident at Galesville, Md.

Several other persons were hurt, but none was believed seriously injured. Prince Georges County Policeman G. William Gray suffered a sprained back, and a Washington taxicab driver was arrested on drunk and reckless driving charges after a collision between a cab and police car on Rhode Island avenue in Brentwood, Md., yesterday.

Police said the cab ran into the rear of the police car, occupied by Gray and Officer R. C. Sines, throwing it onto the street car tracks. George H. Lloyd, 1200 block of Kearney street N.E., was a driver of the car, according to police.

## PROVIDENCE AUXILIARY WILL STAGE BENEFIT

Card Party Finds Enthusiastic Response as Many Prominent Citizens Become Patrons.

The Ladies' Auxiliary to Providence Hospital announced today it is receiving enthusiastic response to its benefit card party to be held at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Willard Hotel.

Numerous prominent Washingtonians have become patrons of the affair. The party, being staged to obtain funds for improvement and repair work at the hospital, recalls to many the early history and work of the institution, which was established by the Government in 1861 to care for injured Civil War soldiers. The Sisters of Charity were placed in charge and in later years they took full responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the hospital.

Through the influence of Joseph Cannon, one-time Speaker of the House of Representatives, the triangular plot of ground in front of the hospital was taken over by the United States Government to insure comfort and quiet for the hospital patients.

## Chaparral Cock Pecks Rattler to Death

Film Shown Here Depicts Thrilling Battle in Which Boy Is Saved From Death.



Here are the principals in the motion picture, "The Adventures of Chico," shown at the Pan-American Union. Chico holds his road runner, 1 pound, who saves his life by killing the rattlesnake, 5 pounds, in a thrilling battle.

OUT of the Southwest to Washington has come proof that America, the home of the rattlesnake and the chaparral cock offers as thrilling a fight among animals as the fierce and famous battle to the death wherein the little mongoose triumphs over the large and venomous hooded cobra of India.

In the motion picture, "The Adventures of Chico," shown Friday night at the Pan-American Union for the Ambassador of Mexico and his guests, a 1-pound chaparral cock (known as a road runner) subdues and kills a 5-pound rattler which was slithering toward the sleeping Chico, 10-year-old Mexican boy hero of the picture.

The chaparral cock is a lizard-eating relative of the cuckoo indignant to Mexico and the part of the United States just north of Mexico. It has a long, slightly barbed bill, with which it pecks at the head of the snake until the reptile gives up.

Eight-Minute Fight. The fight between the cock and the rattler takes 8 of the film's 57 minutes.

## NEGRO INSTITUTE TO HEAR MITCHELL

Only Colored Member of Congress to Address Thursday Session.

Representative A. W. Mitchell, only colored member of Congress, will address the Institute of Negro History, sponsored by the principals and teachers of the 13th division of District public schools, at 8 p.m. Thursday in Anthony Bowen School, Second and M streets S.W.

The institute is to be held in connection with Negro History Week, being celebrated this week in Washington and other cities with large colored populations.

Dr. J. C. Bruce, supervising principal of schools in the 13th division, will preside. Other speakers will be Dr. Garnet C. Wilkinson, first assistant superintendent of schools; Dr. Carter G. Woodson, director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History; Dr. Charles H. Wesley of Howard University and John T. Rhines, president of the Southwest Civic Association.

Music by the Burrville School Band and a pageant of the progress of the Negro race are included in the program.

Participating principals are B. B. Brown, Deanwood School; W. F. Brown, Garfield School; E. S. Brown, Bowen School; W. L. Browne, Burrville School; B. B. Butcher, Lovejoy School; E. P. Derricotte, Bell School; S. E. Gray, Giddings School; E. L. Hunt, Synphax School; H. B. Jones, Ambush School; M. C. Lucas, Payne School; R. G. Savoy, Smothers School; and J. E. Synphax, Birney School.

## HEBREW AID SOCIETY NAMES CAMPAIGN HEAD

Joseph A. Wilner to Be Chairman of Drive for Funds for European Refugees.

Joseph A. Wilner, well-known local charity worker, today was named chairman of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society's drive for funds for relief of refugees from Europe.

Dr. Rudolph Kornblith, director of the campaign, announced the other committeemen as follows: Dr. Abram Simon, Morris Cafritz, Bernard Danzansky, Morris Garfinkel, Isidore Hershfeld, Paul Himmelfarb, E. I. Kaufman, Rev. M. H. Levenson, Mr. Kraft, I. J. Mazo, Benjamin Meitman, Rev. Louis Novick, Samuel Schwartz, John N. Safer, A. Schwartz, Louis Spiegler, Charles J. Stein and Henry Viner.

## Birthday Guests All to Be Over 60 Years Old



DR. LAURETTA KRESS.

With a guest list limited to 30 and no one under 60 years of age, a birthday party will be given Dr. Lauretta Kress Thursday at 8 p.m. in her home at 705 Carroll avenue, Takoma Park, Md. She will be 75 years old on that day.

A practicing physician here for the past 30 years, Dr. Kress has specialized in maternity cases and according to the records has delivered 4,145 babies "without losing a mother, a baby, or even a father." That is the way her niece and assistant, Miss Elizabeth Ziegler, states the case.

Wife of Dr. Daniel Kress, medical director of the Washington Sanitarium, Dr. Lauretta—as she is known in Takoma affectionately call her—came to Washington with her husband after distinguished service in the medical fields of England, Australia and Battle Creek, Mich.

Old-time songs will be sung at the party Thursday night, and refreshments will be served. The only young person present will be the 19-year-old granddaughter of the Kresses—Miss Patricia Mason.

## 889,550 ON FEDERAL ROLLS IN DECEMBER

By the Associated Press.

The Civil Service Commission estimated today that 889,550 persons were employed in the executive branch of the Government during December, or 62,79 more than the previous month. The December pay roll was \$137,217,360.

Commissioners said the increase was due to the necessity of hiring a large number of temporary postal workers during the Christmas season. The commission's estimate covers only civil employment.

## WORKER'S INCOME 15 PCT. UNDER '29

Brookings Study Reveals Wage Rates Rose in 1937, but Working Hours Fell.

Reporting on a study of the American income structure, the Brookings Institution said last night that the real income per family worker in 1937 was about 15 per cent lower than in 1929. The study, it was amplified, indicated that the national income in 1937, adjusted for the change in prices, was about 6 per cent under 1929, and that since the increase in real income per family worker was about 10 per cent, this meant a decline of about 15 per cent per worker.

"Real income of farmers and some wage groups was higher than in 1929," its statement continued. "But comparisons with 1929 indicate merely the relative change since that year, and do not measure the real status of the different classes in 1937."

"Wages rose, hours fell. Hourly wages in many industries rose above the 1929 averages, but because of the accompanying decrease in working hours the resulting weekly or annual incomes were, in many cases, much lower than in 1929. Weekly earnings in manufacturing during the first part of 1937 were about 6.5 per cent lower than the 1929 average, while the cost of living was about 16 per cent lower. Although this meant increased real income and more leisure for those who were fortunate enough to have full employment, there were eight or nine million workers in the country without jobs."

"Investors and non-farm entrepreneurs apparently failed to regain income ground lost during the depression to the same extent as farmers and some wage groups. While satisfactory information on 1937 profits is not yet available, corporate earnings for the first three months appear to have been about 70 per cent of the 1929 figure."

Government a Factor. The report said the Government was the source of a much larger portion of the national income in 1936 than in 1929, contributing 14.6 per cent of the total in 1936 compared with 8 per cent in 1929.

The electric light and power and service industries made "inconsequential" increases in their percentage of contribution, the institution reported. Construction's contribution declined from 4 per cent of the total to 1.7 per cent; that of finance from 10.8 to 9.8 per cent, and transportation and communication from 10.1 to 8.9 per cent.

Manufacturing, mining, trade and agriculture remained close to their 1929 percentages, the analysis showed.

Clerical work appeared to be the most beneficial, and messenger work the most harmful, according to the report. One messenger at the school became the school problem child, the report said, while on the other hand the two leading scholars of the 1936 graduating class did clerical work in the local Townsend plan office.

A check-up revealed that the principal of the high school some time ago when students complained at being put in the afternoon group of double-shift classes on the grounds "I gotta job."

The detailed questionnaire showed the average wage was about 29 cents an hour and that the students generally worked every afternoon after school with a long 12 or 14 hour session Saturday. Only 78 of the nearly 500 working students were girls.

A check-up revealed that the

## D. C. REVENUE BILL OFFERED IN HOUSE; ALTERATIONS SEEN

Measure Would Raise \$6,500,000, More Than Twice Sum Needed.

INCOME AND BUSINESS LEVIES ARE ADVOCATED

Real Estate Rate Raised Back to \$1.75 in Last-Minute Revision by Nichols.

The new 1939 District revenue bill, which will raise more than twice the amount of money needed to balance the budget for the coming fiscal year, was introduced today by Chairman Nichols of the Fiscal Affairs Subcommittee of the House District Committee.

Mr. Nichols, however, predicted there would be many alterations in the measure before it is finally called up in the House.

The bill contains a three-point revenue raising plan—1 per cent tax on the incomes of all persons who work in the District, continuation of the unpopular business privilege tax on a graduated scale and continuation of the present \$1.75 levy on real and personal property.

Several Changes Made. In a last-minute revision, Mr. Nichols made several changes in the tentative draft of the bill. These included raising the real estate tax over from \$1.60 to \$1.75, the same rate now in effect. In the bill, the dwindling amount of the anticipated budget deficit, it had been planned to fix the rate at \$1.60 in the coming fiscal year in order to save property owners \$1,800,000. Mr. Nichols, however, said it was finally decided to write in the \$1.75 rate in the bill to give witnesses who appear before the subcommittee during coming public hearings "something to shoot at."

Hearings will start the latter part of this week or early next week. Mr. Nichols said every person interested in the District's financial situation would have an opportunity to testify.

As now drawn, the bill is estimated to raise a minimum of \$6,500,000 in additional revenue. The anticipated budget shortage in the coming fiscal year is not expected to exceed \$3,000,000.

Sees Income Tax Out. Mr. Nichols expressed confidence that income tax plan would be eliminated from the bill, either by the full District Committee or by the House. The proposed 1 per cent tax on salaries would apply to all Federal employees, members of Congress and non-residents. Members of Congress, however, would be required to pay only on a proportionate share of their \$10,000-a-year salary, or in other words, only the amount they received while Congress is in session would be subject to taxation.

Printed copies of the bill will be available to the public tomorrow.

## WAGE CONFERENCE TO RESUME WORK

Board Will Promulgate Schedule for Waitresses and Counter Girls After Parley Today.

The minimum wage conference was to meet at the District Building late today in another move toward the establishment of a scale for certain hotel and restaurant employees.

Following the conference, the Minimum Wage Board was to go into session to promulgate a schedule for waitresses, counter girls, telephone operators, chambermaids, charwomen and laundresses.

The question of tips for waitresses is expected to bring down their minimum wage.